

Peter Nicholson
Testimonial Match Programme
Peter Nicholson's '78 xi
v
Bolton Wanderers 1982-83



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Greavo's Back!

Whilst I have never been a great one for looking back, I must admit that Managing the Team tonight has brought back a few memories.

It is a pleasure to Manage 'Nicho's' team equally as it was to Manage Peter himself during our time together. I have not been back to Burnden since February 1980 and I cannot think of a better reason for returning.

In my trade Peter is what is known as a good pro' and I sincerely hope tonight's game will be well attended for a player who deserves it.

It will be particularly nice to have all my 'old' lads in one dressing room again, and even I will have a few nostalgic memories.

One of our strong points, apart from being a good team, was the team spirit that ran throughout the side, and many were the occasions when this was responsible for getting us points when the chips were down.

So may I say good luck to Peter on a well-deserved Testimonial, and wish him a bumper gate.

IAN GREAVES.

Log of Peter's Burnden Career

APPEARANCES FOR BOLTON WANDERERS:

		LEAGUE			LEAGUE CUP			F.A. CUP		
		App	Sub	not used	App	Sub	not used	App	Sub	not used
71-2		40	1	1	6	0	0	2	0	0
72-3		36	2	5	2	0	0	7	0	2
73-4		33	3	4	4	0	1	3	0	0
74-5		36	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
75-6		15	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	3
76-7		34	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
77-8		21	2	2	2	0	0	3	1	0
78-9		34	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
79-80		30	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0
80-1		18	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
81-2		6	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total		303	16	21	26	0	2	23	2	5

Clearly

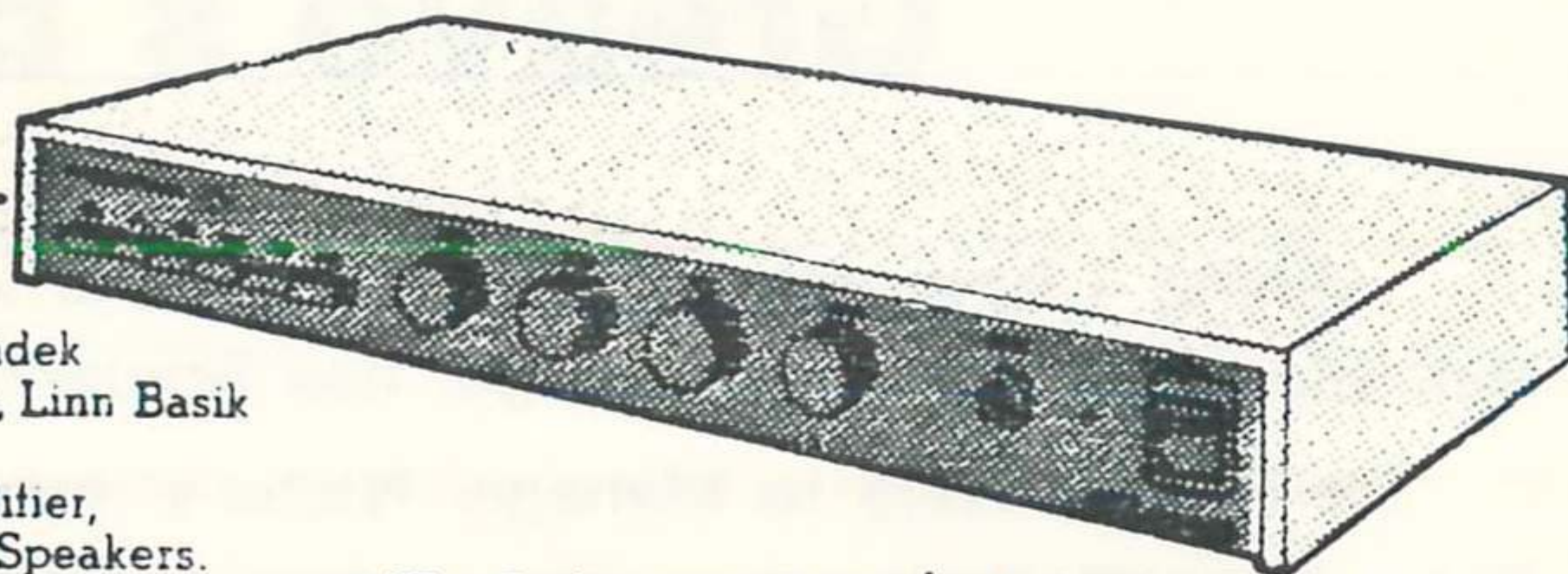
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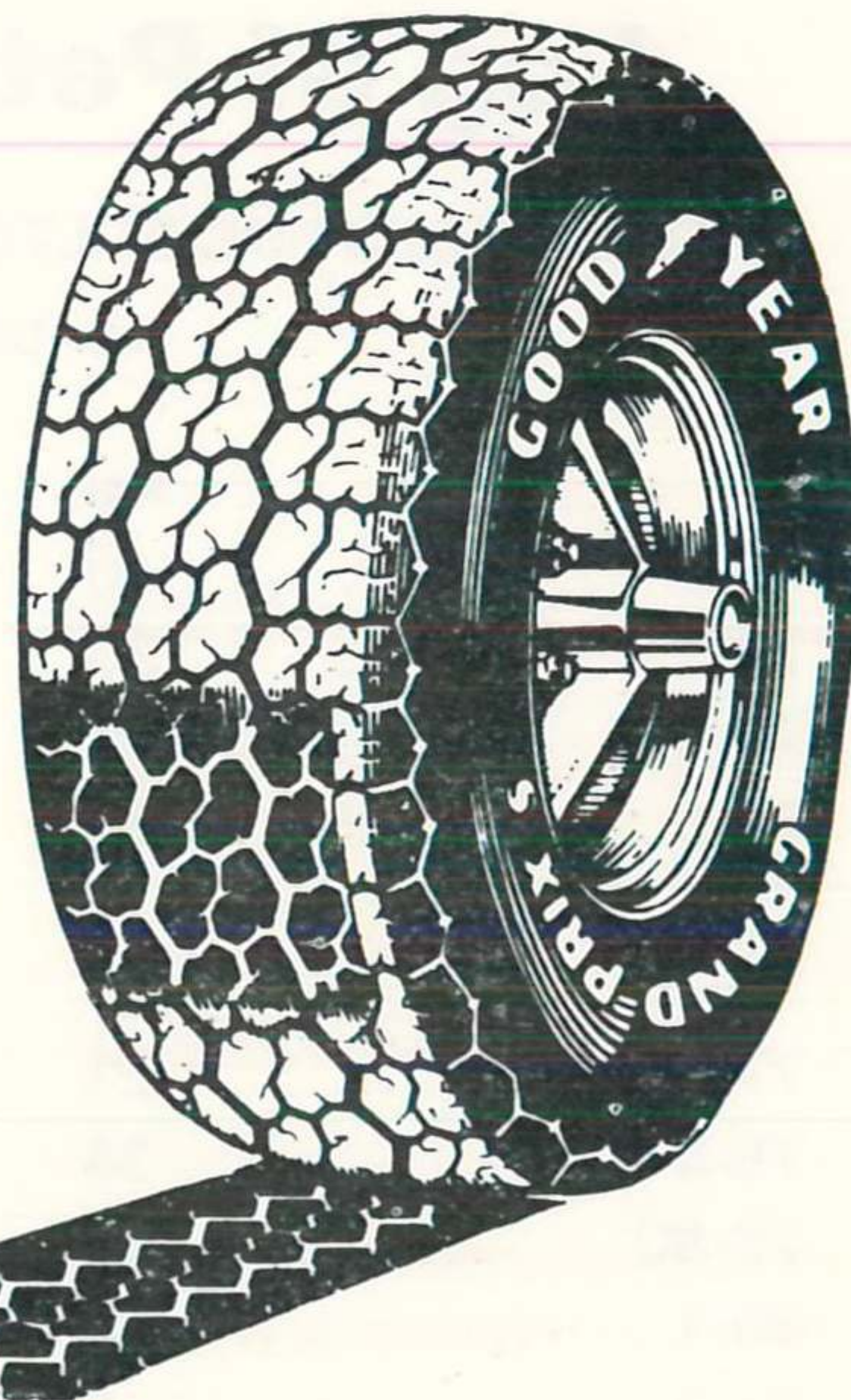
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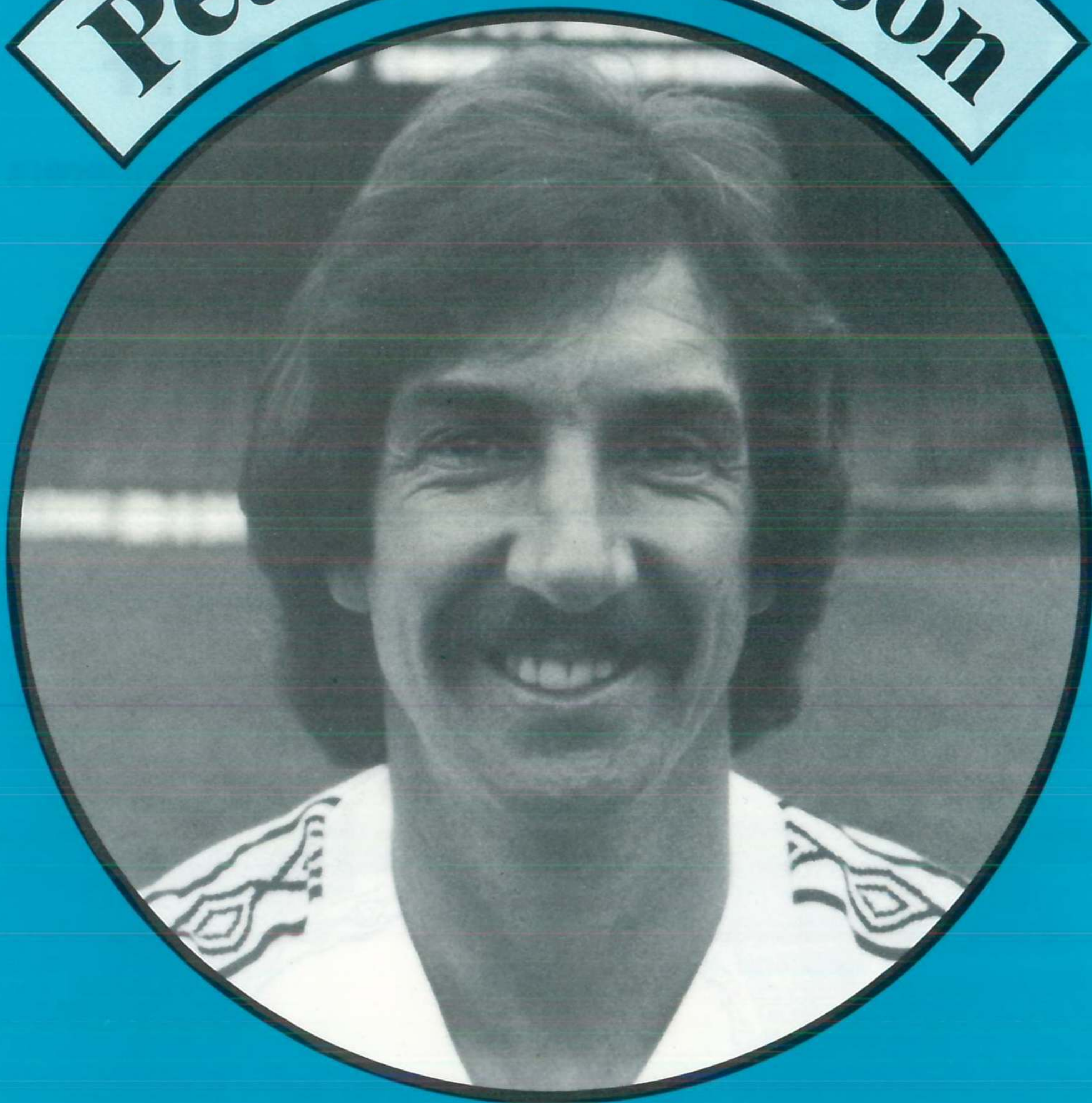
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Peter Nicholson



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success in his
testimonial year.



Peter



Nicholson



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“Nicko”

A truly dedicated professional in every sense of the word. He has served Bolton magnificently both on and off the field throughout his ten year career at the club, since signing from Blackpool for what must be the best £1,000 any football club in the country ever laid out on a player. Peter's Wanderers career has spanned four managers: Jimmy Armfield, Ian Greaves, Stan Anderson and George Mulhall, including over 300 league games and several cup-ties, scoring vital goals on the way, and I think it is also correct to say he's worn every jersey except the Keepers and if I know Nicko he'll make it a full set before he's finished.

If one looks back over Peter's career at Wanderers you'll find he's been involved in two promotion winning sides from division three in 1973 and from division two in 1978 and during the clubs two seasons in the first division he played in 64 of the clubs 84 games, a very high percentage indeed.

Over the years Peter has had several opportunities to move but each one has been turned down with Nicko preferring to stay at Burnden, showing true loyalty to the club. Bolton Wanderers have in turn shown their respect for Peter by rewarding him with a well deserved testimonial and I hope the people of Bolton will help me and my testimonial committee make it a memorable year for Peter and his family.



John Farrar
(Chairman of the Peter Nicholson
Testimonial Fund)



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Go and Join the Police Force

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the invitation to make a contribution to your Testimonial Brochure after nearly wrecking your football career before it even started!

It seems such a long time ago when I managed Carlisle for the first time in the late 60's and we decided to disband the Reserve side and run only one team.

I remember discussing your future with your father in attendance and suggested that you should take a career in the Police Force. You will probably be more appreciative of the fact now, that Managers have many unpleasant duties to perform, and also, that sometimes we are right, and sometimes we get it wrong.

You must also have thought that I still did not rate you when I became Manager at Blackpool in 1970 and sold you to Jimmy Armfield, the then Bolton Manager, along with Henry Mowbray at the end of my first season there.

However, regardless of those two decisions, each time I have met you during the many seasons that have passed, you have always been most friendly and cordial. I believe that I, in return, showed the respect I have for you when I tried to persuade you to return to Carlisle last season.

Football is the loser without professionals like you Peter, and you have been a great credit to your club Bolton Wanderers during the good and bad times.

You have served them well over the past 10 seasons or so and I trust that you will have the kind of Testimonial your sincerity deserves.



Bob Stokoe



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He Nearly Broke Us!

It is fitting for me to write a few words about Peter Nicholson, as he was the first player I bought for Bolton Wanderers when I came as manager back in 1971. He nearly broke us—the cost £4,000.

He came in a batch of three from my old club Blackpool where I had just finished playing. Henry Mowbray and Graham Rowe were the other two who came as “Frees”. To be honest I brought them as a short term measure.

I had seen Bolton get themselves relegated the season before with some rather poor defending and I thought this trio plus Charlie Wright who I got on another “free” from Charlton would give me some breathing space.

Well Mowbray and Rowe didn't last long. Henry did well, but Graham's knee went and he had to finish. But “Nicko” is still going, and fortunately for Bolton Charlie is back on the staff—had I stayed at Burnden he would never have left anyway.

Nicko has confounded the critics over the years. But he has played under seven managers in his career and in a period of about 12 years he has played in over 300 league games. When you add the cup matches on as well it shows that none of the bosses he has played under have had little time for him.

Each one knows that every time you turn him out he's going to give you his all. At Burnden he has figured prominently in two promotion teams, and played a big part in the revival back in the seventies.

He deserves a testimonial, and I hope he does well. For it's the Nicko's of the football world who deserve this sort of recognition.

I think I know the Bolton public—I expect them to rally round, just to say “thanks” for the miles he has run in the Wanderers cause.

Jimmy Armfield



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DURING HIS
TESTIMONIAL YEAR**

A Real Pro

If there was any fellow I would like to write a few words about it would be "Nicko". At the fear of sounding corny, he has always been a "real pro" and that's the highest compliment any old pro like myself can give.

I have never seen him duck anything—always prepared for a game and never complaining.

As the lads at Bolton will tell you he has one big fault—he is a worse joke teller than me—and that's saying something!

Seriously, it was my privilege to be his Manager for six years and during that time he was very rarely out of the team for any lengthy period. As an ambassador for the Club, both on and off the field. He was tops.

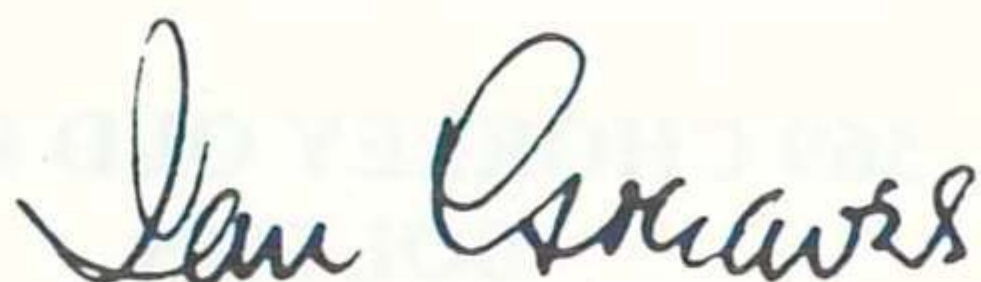
As most people know he was the first player I tried to sign when I took over at Oxford United but he didn't want to leave his beloved Bolton Wanderers and for that I couldn't blame him.

In this day and age of temperamental stars "Nicko" stands out as a perfect Club man who has been loyal to one club for 10 years.

I personally know that the Bolton public, for me special people, will respond to the kind of unselfish loyalty that Peter has given the Club.

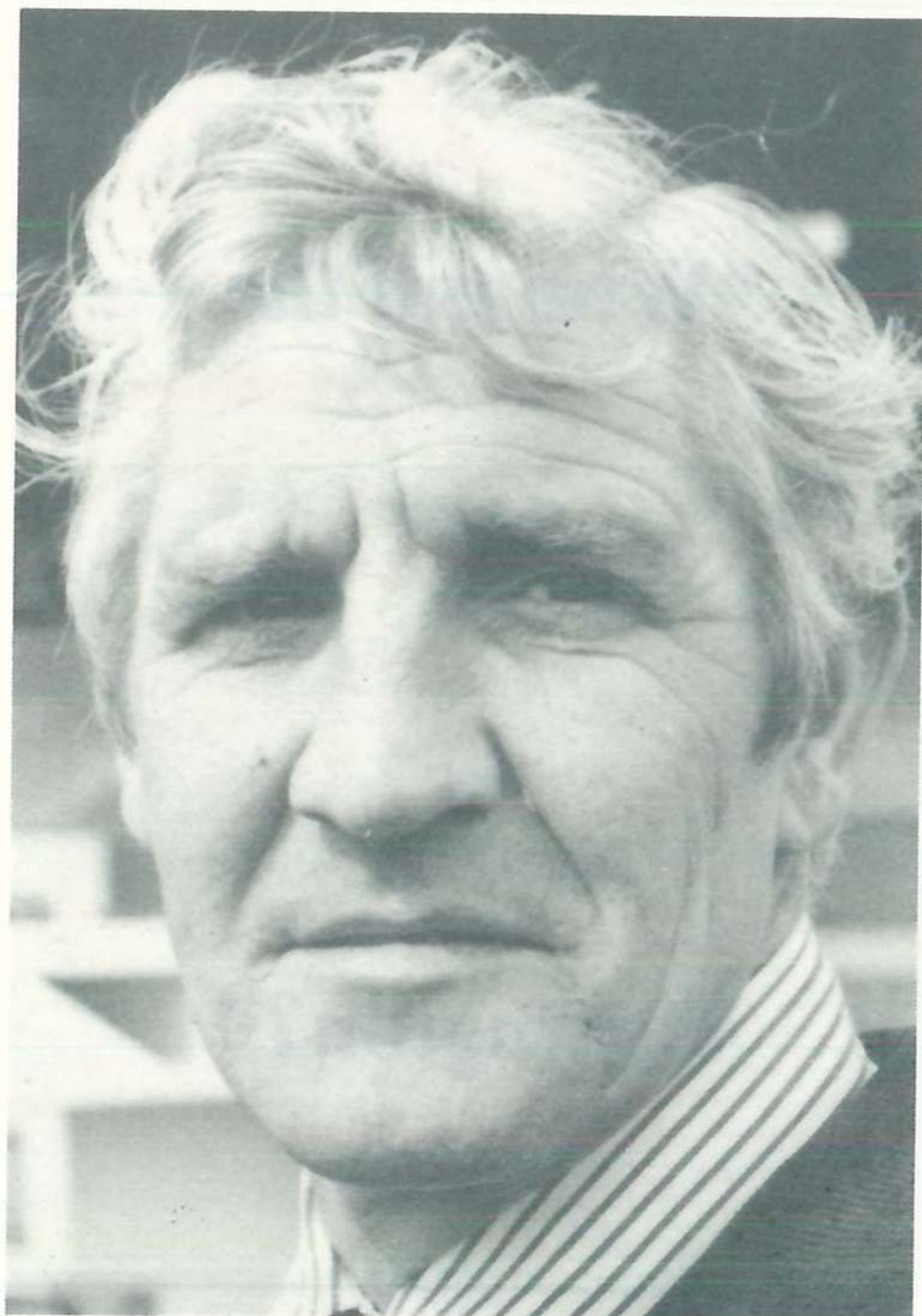
I hope he has a smashing year and gets his just reward.

So from "Greavo" to "Nicko" I say you'll do for me son.



Ian Greaves

P.S.—I still cherish that goal he scored at Sheffield United the night we beat them 5-1 at Bramall Lane. You don't get many "Nicko" but that was a cracker.



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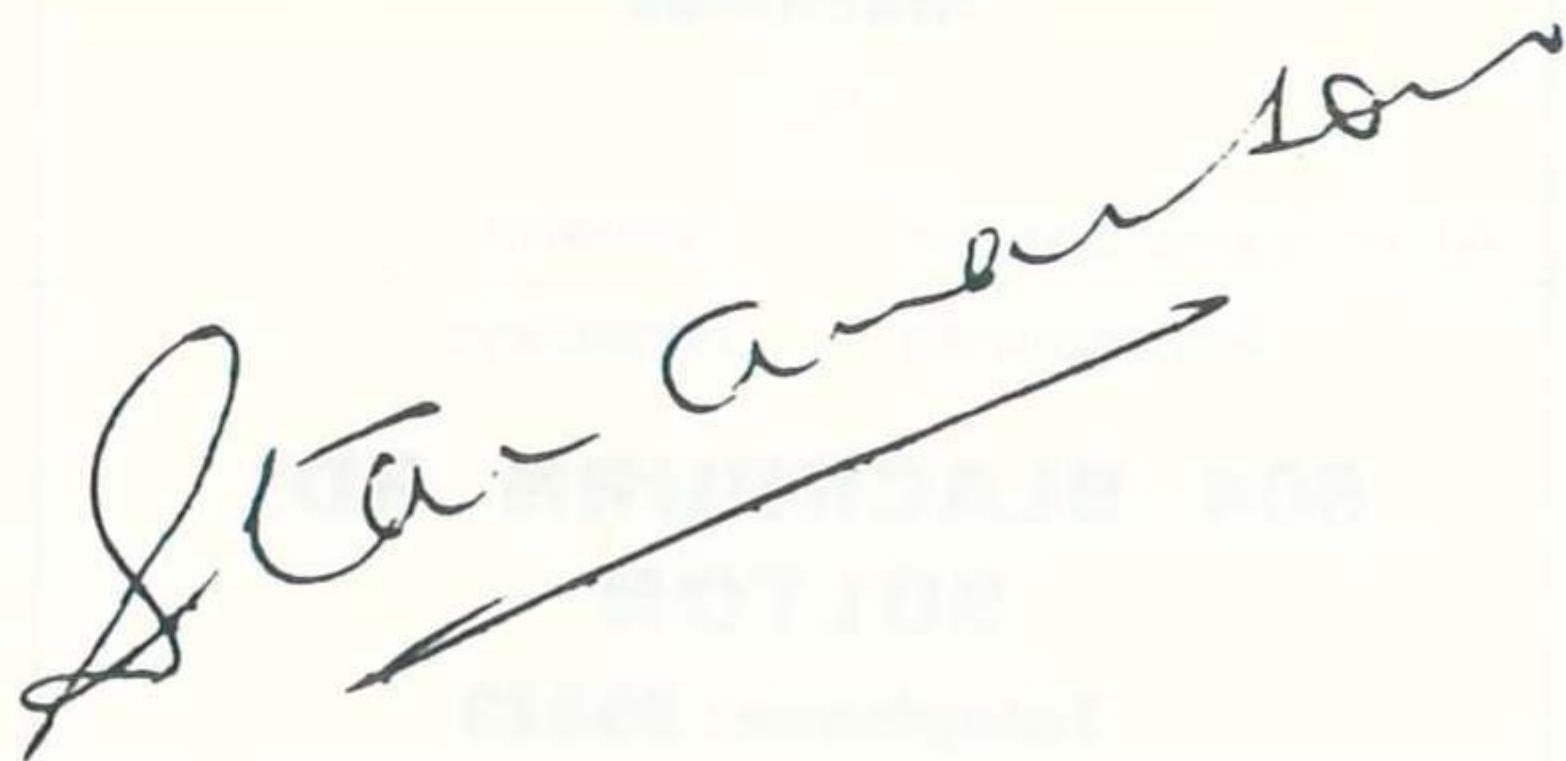
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He'll Play Anywhere!

At a time when football and players are under severe criticism from the public it is a pleasure to be able to congratulate Peter Nicholson on his testimonial year at Bolton Wanderers.

One has to look no further than Peter when one is looking for loyalty. He has served Bolton faithfully over the last 10 years and any manager he has served under will find it hard to find a more likeable and genuine player. Always prepared to give more than 100 per cent he will play in any position asked without question. I'm sure he relishes being moved around and whether he's playing full-back or in midfield he rarely comes off without satisfying the paying public. In these days when most clubs are running on small staffs a player's versatility is most important and in this respect Peter is better off than most players. He is popular with fans and off the field Peter spends a lot of his spare time attending various functions during the Season. He can always be relied upon to serve the Club in any capacity.

A Testimonial, to be successful takes a lot of time and hard work off the field. Knowing Peter he will strive very hard to make his testimonial a success. Given the help and encouragement he deserves I'm sure he'll do well. Good luck, Peter.



Stan Anderson



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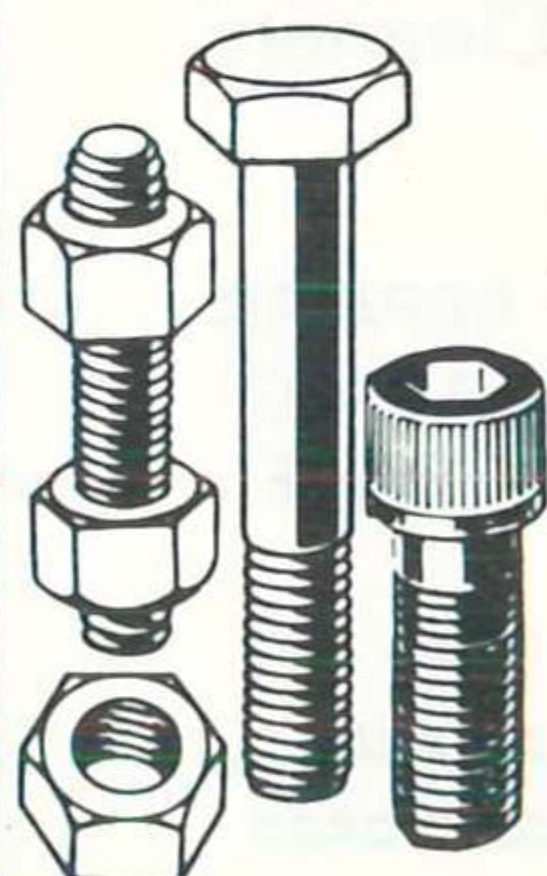
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A True Pro.

Péter Nicholson, known affectionately as “Nicko” is a professional in the true and best sense of the word.

He was born in Cleator Moor and played for Blackpool before joining Bolton Wanderers 10 years ago. He was bought for the princely sum of £1,000 by Jimmy Armfield and surely this must be one of the best buys Bolton have ever made. He had, up till the end of last season, played 310 games for the Wanderers. Scoring 12 goals. According to my reckoning, that works out at about £3.00 per game!

When I came back to Bolton towards the end of last season, “Nicko” was on the free transfer list, but I felt that he was a good man to have around, and I was very pleased to be able to negotiate a new contract for him.

Nicko is a play anywhere man, who never moans. His ambition has always been to represent the club to the best of his ability, and I have never known him to give anything less than 100 per cent on the field. He has been extremely loyal to the club, and an outstanding example to young apprentices and professionals alike. He is most certainly a squad player of the very best kind and dressing room talk convinces me that he has always been a very popular member of the club.

He has also given majestic service to the club off the field and has represented the Wanderers loyally and sincerely at many charitable functions, where he has given his time quite unstintingly for the benefit of others. He has never ever refused to go to a charitable organisation where he felt that he could be of some benefit to other people, and, to me, that makes him one hell of a guy. I am convinced that he has given as much to the game as he has received from it.

I understand that he is a very good cricketer and I know to my cost that he is not a bad golfer either. With a handicap of 11, he has certainly got a good name at Dunsar Golf Club, where he wins more times than he loses.



His wife, Shirley, comes from Blackpool, and they are proud of their happy family life. They have three boys, all born in Bolton, and *all* fanatical Bolton supporters.

Nicko deserves the best possible benefit and I fully support his Testimonial.

I hope that the club's supporters will give as generously as possible to a man who had given as generously and as devotedly as Nicko.

George Mulhall
Manager



BLACKPOOL 1970-71: During the last ten years eight of the above players have left Blackpool and played in the First Division — how many do you recognise?

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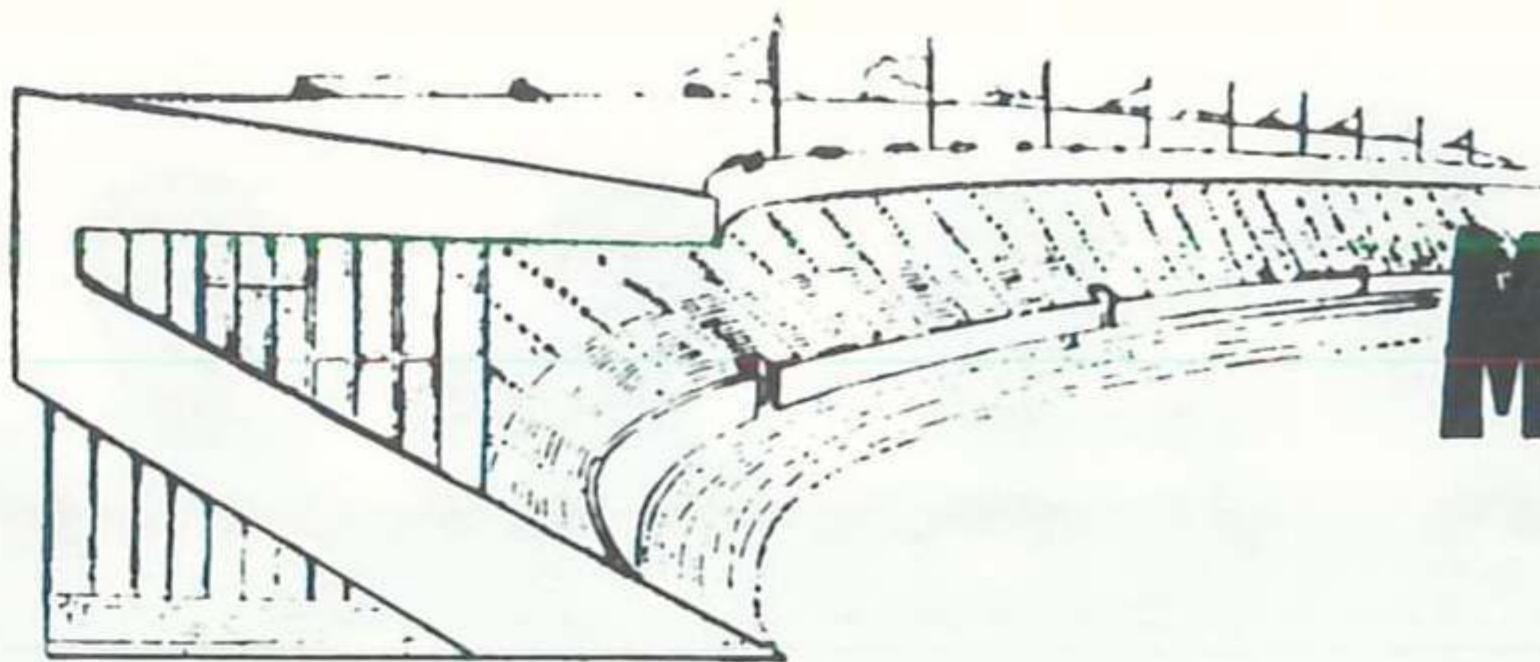
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SIR MATT BUSBY

I am very happy to say a few words on the occasion of Peter Nicholson's Testimonial.

Loyalty used to be a gift and now these days, it is a treasure.

Here is a player who has been dedicated to his Club and given everything he had at all times, and one can only hope that the supporters of Bolton Wanderers and indeed the public, will respond by making his Testimonial Year a most successful one.

Sir Matt Busby, C.B.E.



W. BOWDEN, A.C.I.I., F.C.I.B.
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Blackpool First Team Squad 1969-70



Back Row (L. to R.): HATTON, COLEMAN, BENTLEY, NICHOLSON, HUGHES (J), JOHNSON, MURRAY.

Centre: CRAVEN, ALCOCK, BLACKLAW, THOMPSON, ROWE, JAMES.

Front: PICKERING, HUTCHINSON, SUDDICK, ARMFIELD, GREEN, MOWBRAY, BROWN.



Bolton Wanderers 1981-82



"YOUNG PRO"

BLACKPOOL 1969-70



*"NICKO'S" FOOTBALL LEAGUE DEBUT
BLACKPOOL v. NOTTINGHAM FOREST
- 1970*



JIMMY'S NEW BOYS: PRE SEASON 1971

Left to right: 'Nicko', Charlie Wright, Graham Rowe, Henry Mowbray, and Boss Jimmy Armfield.

Summary of Nicko's Career

Born Cleator Moor 12-1-51.

Apprentice with Carlisle Utd, later joined Blackpool where he made 3 League appearances plus two as non-playing substitute.

Joined Bolton Wanderers in June 1971 for a "small fee", now believed to have been as low as £1,000.

"I have signed Nicko because he is young and has a lot to offer" said Jimmy Armfield.

Peter Nicholson made his debut for Bolton Wanderers on August 14, 1971 in a League game against Oldham Athletic in Division Three.

Peter Nicholson has turned down a number of opportunities to join other clubs, preferring to stay with Wanderers.

In July 1978 he was offered a chance of a move to Cambridge but turned it down and a month later decided against a move to Sheffield Wednesday. In each case Wanderers had agreed on a fee of £25,000.

Then in early 1981, having been offered the chance of a free transfer, in recognition of his loyal service to the club, Peter had talks with his former boss Ian Greaves, now at Oxford, John McGrath at Port Vale and Bob Stokoe at his former club Carlisle. The offer of regular first team football was a temptation but Peter again decided to stay on at Burnden and in May was offered a fresh contract. His decision to stay paid off when he was first choice right-back as Wanderers began the 81-82 season.

Peter Nicholson has scored 12 League goals and two in the FA Cup.

His best season for goals was in Wanderers' promotion year of 1972-73 when he scored five — three in three games at the very end of the season. That same season Peter showed his amazing versatility, playing in no less than eight positions plus that of substitute.

In fact he has worn every number except the No. 1 jersey, although it is at right-back where he has made far and away the majority of his appearances.



A look at the statistics, in fact, shows that Peter has only been on the substitutes bench 33 times in his League career with Wanderers — fewer than many would imagine.

He was an important member of the two promotion-winning sides he has been involved with, making 36 appearances when the club won promotion from Division Three in 1973 and 21 when promoted from Division Two in 1978. He played in 64 of the club's 84 subsequent First Division games.

Appearances for Bolton Wanderers

	LEAGUE			LEAGUE CUP			FA CUP		
	App	Sub	not used	App	Sub	not used	App	Sub	not used
71-2	40	1	1	6	—	—	2	—	—
72-3	36	2	5	2	—	—	7	—	2
73-4	33	3	4	4	—	1	3	—	—
74-5	36	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
75-6	15	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	3
76-7	34	—	1	7	—	1	1	—	—
77-8	21	2	2	2	—	—	3	1	—
78-9	34	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
79-80	30	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—
80-1	18	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
81-2	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	301	14	20	26	—	2	23	2	5

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THE NICHOLSON FILE

Name:

PETER NICHOLSON

Born:

12 January, 1951.

Height:

6 ft.

Weight:

12 stone.

Married:

Yes, wife Shirley.

Children:

Three boys: Lee, Andrew, Michael.

Education:

St. Patrick's Cleator Moor.

St. Joseph's Workington.

School Soccer:

St. Patrick's Junior School.

St. Cuthbert's.

St. Joseph's Workington.

Workington U.15's.

Cumberland U.15's.

Professional Career:

Apprentice Pro-Carlisle 1966.

Blackpool 1968.

Bolton 1971.

Honours:

Anglo Italian Winners

with Blackpool 1971.

Div. 3 Champions 1973 Bolton.

Country Honours and U.15's:

Football, Cricket, Rugby League,

Running.

Most Influence on Career:

My Dad.

Highlight of Career:

Debut in First Division at age of

18 for Blackpool v. Notts.

Forest 1970.

Biggest Disappointment of Career:

Losing in Semi-Final of League Cup to Everton.



Most Difficult Opponent:

Wife (no seriously)

Peter Thompson in practice matches.

Likes:

Winning.

Dislikes:

Losing and Smoking.

Food Likes:

Steaks.

Dislikes:

None.

Music Likes:

All types of Pop and Heavy Rock

Dislikes:

None – listen to anything.

Hobbies:

Golf/Cricket/Cars.

If not a Professional Footballer, what other Sport would you have chosen:

Cricket.

Professional Ambition:

To be successful.

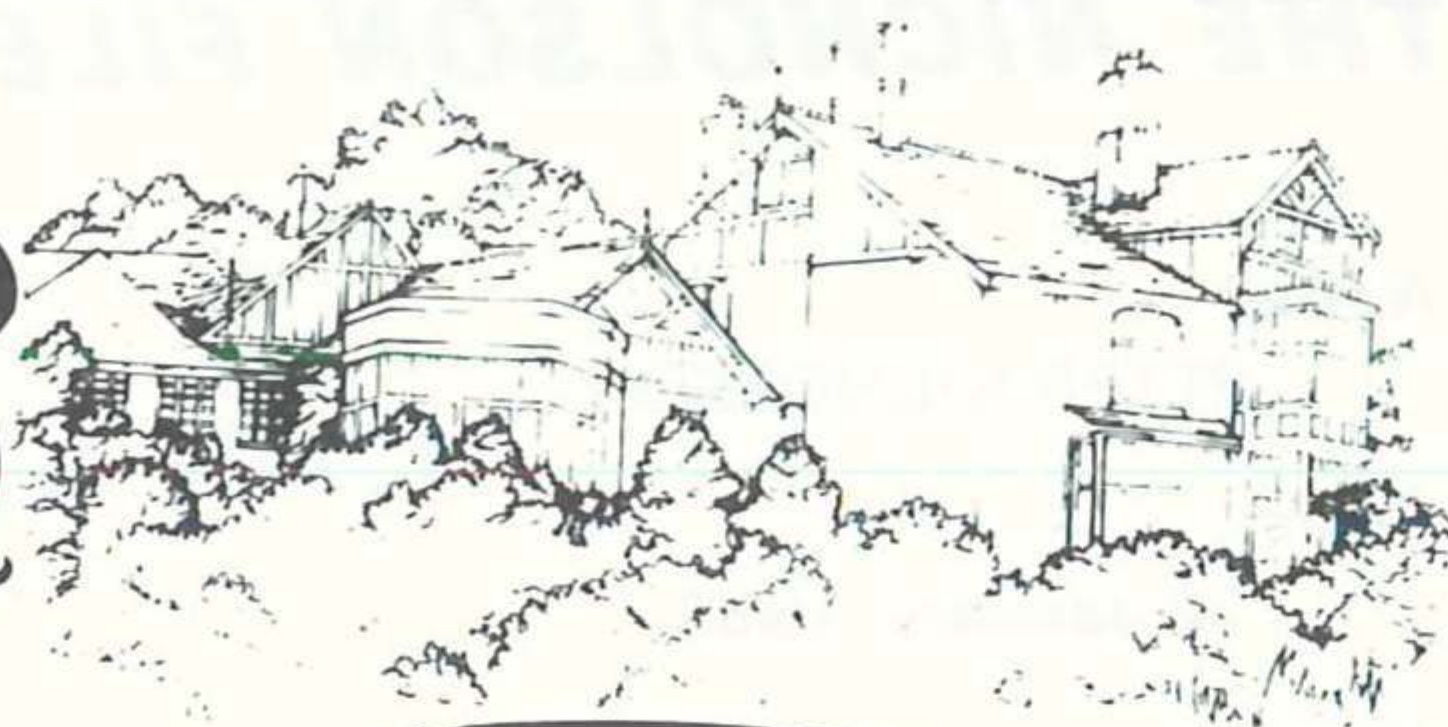
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The Nicholson Boys Lee, Michael and Andrew

Where are they now?



Wanderers Division 3 Champions 1973



Promotion Winning Squad 1977-1978

Rim's View

I first knew Peter the season Bolton dropped into the 3rd Division for the first time in our history. Jimmy Armfield had taken over as manager and amongst his new signings were Peter along with Henry Mowbray and Graham Rowe from Blackpool and Charlie Wright signed from Charlton. Peter had a start in football that would have discouraged the most determined of players, as he had received a free transfer from first Carlisle and then sold by Blackpool for a paltry £1,000, when he came to Bolton although at first unable to command a regular spot in the team he showed a desire to prove his previous clubs wrong, and the last ten years are proof of how well he has succeeded in that aim.

Peter is one of the most versatile players to have appeared for the Wanderers, but as other such players have discovered versatility has its cost. When a team has a spell of injuries or a loss of form it is the utility player that generally fills the gap, making it very difficult for him to establish himself in any position and often missing the recognition deserved. In fact on occasions this type of player finds himself out of the team as a result of the team re-shuffling. Peter has played in almost every position for Bolton and has done a good job in all of them, making approximately 400 League and Cup appearances.

He is a model professional, un-complaining, a good trainer and a man who will not give a manager any headaches, whilst remaining very popular with his fellow professionals. As an Ambassador for the Club Peter has given more of his time than most in accepting invitations to meet the fans at presentations and similar functions.

In this day and age of the Million Pound player, bigger wages and rocketing financial costs in football, the word Testimonial has almost become a thing of the past in its true sense. In the case of Peter the true spirit of the Testimonial is upheld, a tribute to a good professional who has served his club well for a decade in Three Divisions of the Football League.

He has always shown 100% effort and a genuine desire to do his best. Allied to this he



has great consistency on his side, a much underrated factor, and one most important in any successful team.

I should like to wish Peter every success not only in this Testimonial Year but in his many years left as a player, and I hope the public turn out in great numbers for a most likeable genuine player.

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POEM BY
DAVE BUTLER.

When I was asked by the Chairman of Peter's Testimonial Committee to write an article for his brochure, I was both surprised and delighted.

Being, by profession, a Comedian together with the fact that I am his Brother-in-Law I thought it would be appropriate if I put my words into verse.

When Peter Nicholson came to Bolton,
it was 1971
At nineteen years, his life at Burnden Park
had only just begun.
From Blackpool, Jimmy Armfield brought,
other players too.
And all were added straight away,
to the Wanderers crew.
as time went by, the other men
sadly never stayed.
But Peter did and on his merits
gladly made the grade.

But where to play, aye there's the rub,
he went in at number two,
When someone got a hamstring,
so what did the manager do?
He moved him up to number four,
he stayed there for a spell.
Until they said, 'You're number three'
and still he played quite well.
Then a team mate caught the flu,
the boss was in a fix,
but not for long, Pete had his shirt,
on the back was number six.
He settled in to his new job
everything was fine.
He could not believe his ears
when they said "You're number nine".
Then came a run at number ten,
he knew then it must be fate.
Because the following Saturday
he played at number eight.
One week around one o'clock,
which was the time he would arrive,
the boss said 'Put that shirt back on the hook
and get into number five'.
There were occasions when he turned out
wearing number seven,
and believe it or believe it not,
he donned the strip eleven.
He played in all positions.
Certainly more than most.
I could never understand it, why
he didn't play between the posts.

Bolton fell to Division Three,
but soon they finished top,
Pete won his medal with the rest,
the job there, did not stop.
It took three years to win that League,
three years of toil and sweat.
Heart aches and breaks
were felt by all,
with players and fans upset.

First try, they missed out by a point.
Eight months ended in regret.
The second time by a single goal

And one I won't forget.
It happened down at Charlton,
I was watching from the stand.
It was scored so blatantly
by an opposing players hand.
I saw the tears of disbelief,
everyone strongly objected,
the referee could not be moved
and all went home dejected.

Some players went and new ones came
but Peter did not take move,
he stayed and played his part,
he had a point to prove.
They had to do it all again
the third Promotion Run.
They finished First, they won the League,
Pete was in Division One.

He had reached his goal, his aim
his three-year long fought dream.
The first day of the new season
he was told 'we don't want you in the team'
shattered . . . that's to say the least
his morale was blighted
Sheffield Wednesday said 'play for us'
So did Cambridge United.

he thought it over, took his time
but Bolton was his base.
His mind made up, he told the boss
'I'm playing for my place'
He worked so hard — he had to do
My God he had good reason.
He gained his place over forty times
during the ensuing season.

Four hundred thousand pounds
the programme said he saved the board.
How nice it would be, if
into his Testimonial fund
a little of that they poured.

The Player of the Year award
this club excluded him
but the Warrington branch put that to rights
when they invited Peter in
he was there, he thought
to present others with a prize
when this was done he was the one
to collect the best surprise
a man stood up.
The words he said, I know almost had him floored
he said you are our Player of the Year
and here is your award.
To this day it's kept at home
they only gave out one.
The man they chose to win it was
Peter Nicholson.

To end this story I've studied books
of verse and chorus
I've looked through the Oxford Dictionary
and even Roget's Thesaurus
to find a word, a word that rhymes
a word that sounds like . . . flick-o
to ask all here to join me now
to wish Good Health to the man
we all affectionately know
as . . . Nick-o.



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A former manager of mine used to analyse his playing staff by asking the question, "If we were all in a trench during the First World War and the order to advance was given, who could you trust to be first 'over the top' and who would still be cooking their breakfast?" He could have been certain that Peter Nicholson would have been up at the front, "Nicko" is that sort of person and player.

Peter has served Bolton Wanderers well. Ten years is a long time by any working standard, but in football it is, literally a life time. During that period there have been many "ups" and "downs" (and almost as many different positions!), but you could always rely on Peter to come battling through.

Not only has he given great service to the Club, but also to his profession. At a time when players are receiving so much bad publicity it is nice to be able to counteract the criticism by pointing to the example of players like "Nicko". Although a natural athlete, he has also been prepared to put in the necessary hard work. Even when out of favour he has always given of his best, and has not been one of those players to "slap" in a transfer request as soon as his name disappeared off the team sheet.

The extent of Peter's dedication is very much wider than the club and his profession. He has always involved himself in the community by assisting charities, schools and other voluntary organisations with presentations or personal appearances. When people running football clubs talk, today, of players becoming more



involved in creating the right public image of the club, I have to smile. Players have been doing their "bit" for years and "Nicko" is the prime example. Not a week goes by when he is not attending at least one function in and around Bolton.

A loyal employee, a model professional, and a worker in the community, Peter has never asked for nor sought recognition. I hope that in his testimonial year, his dedication and loyalty will be given due recognition by all those he has worked for and helped in the past. As a playing colleague and friend, I know he deserves it.

Alan Gowling, (Chairman, P.F.A.)



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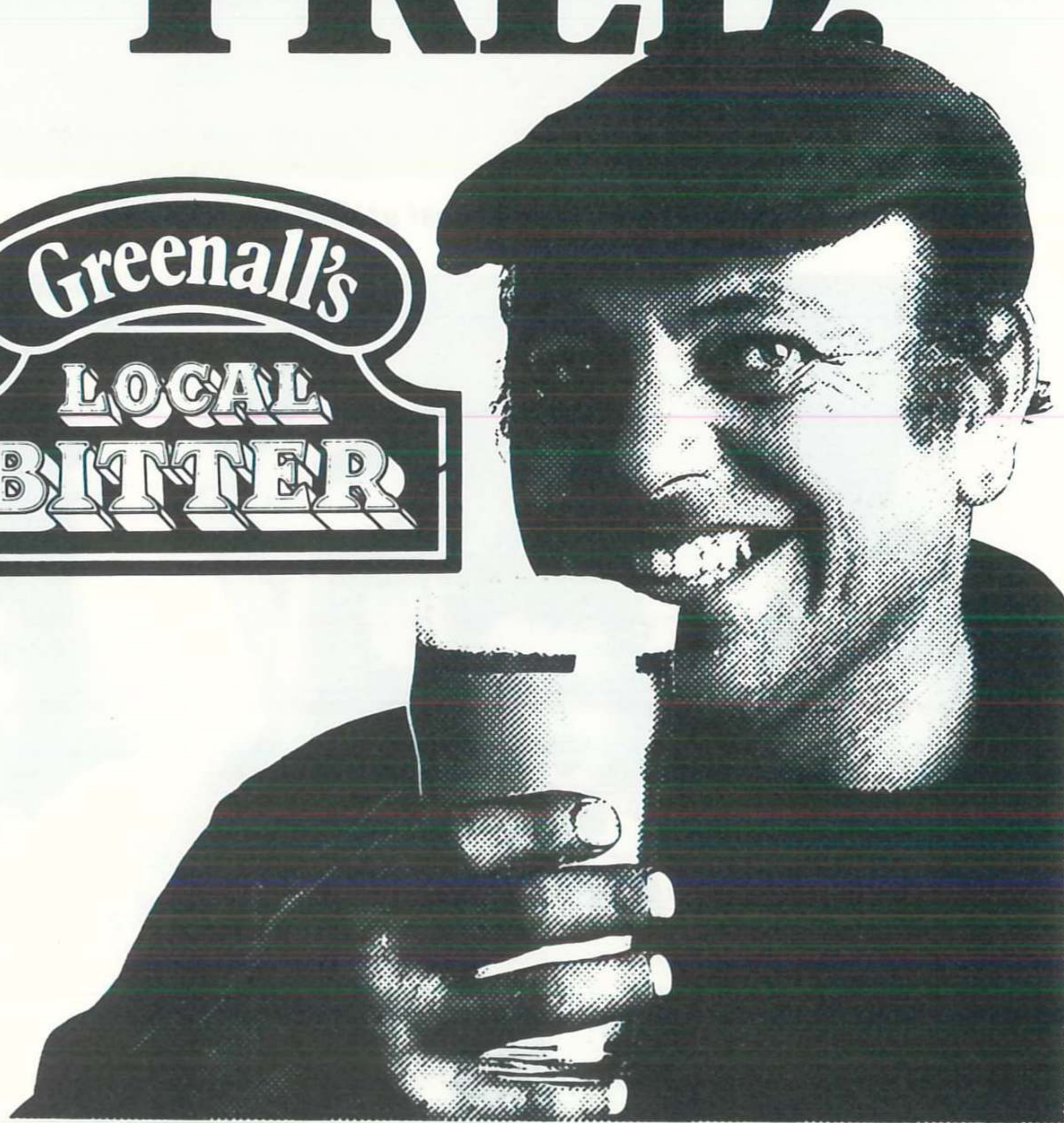


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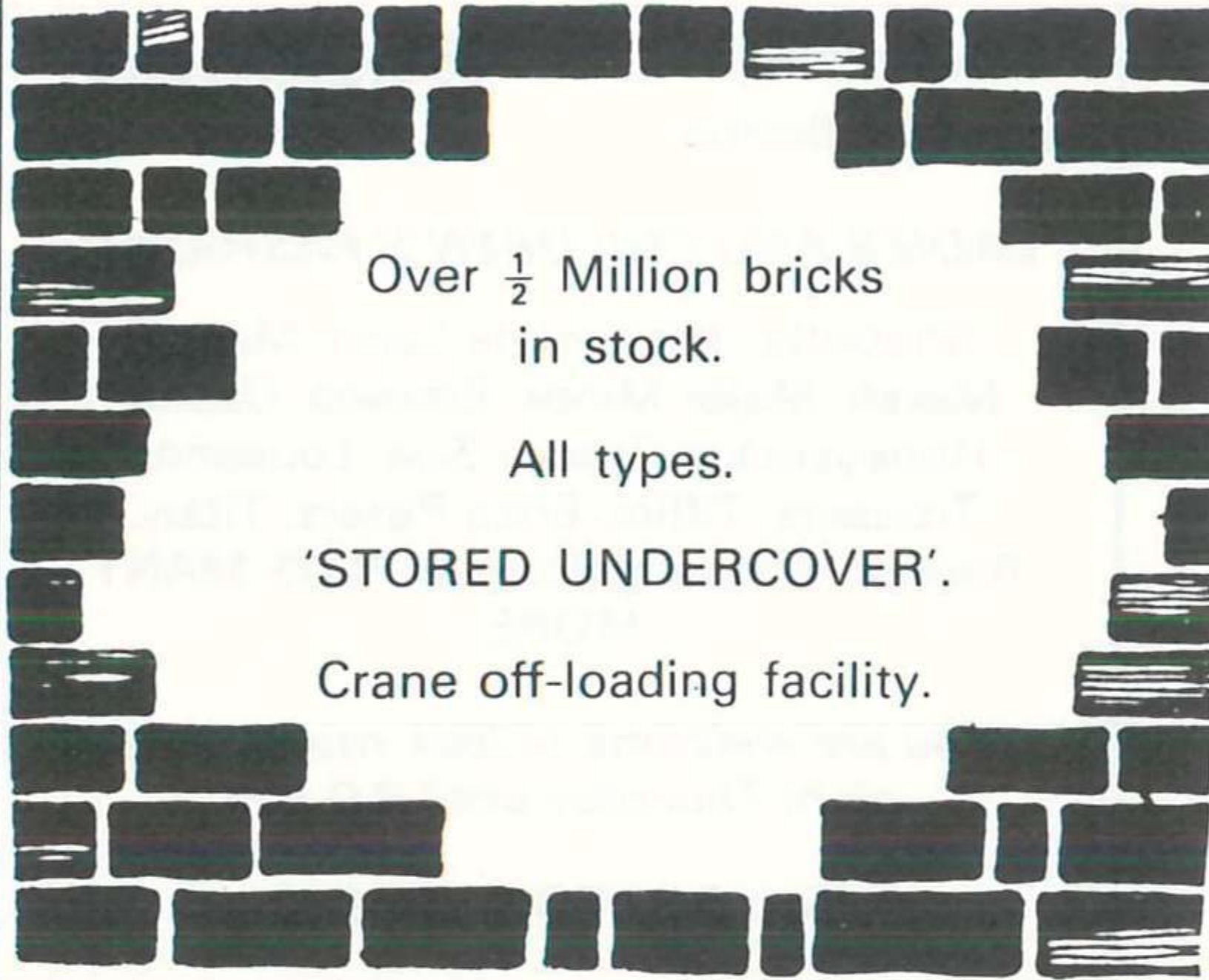
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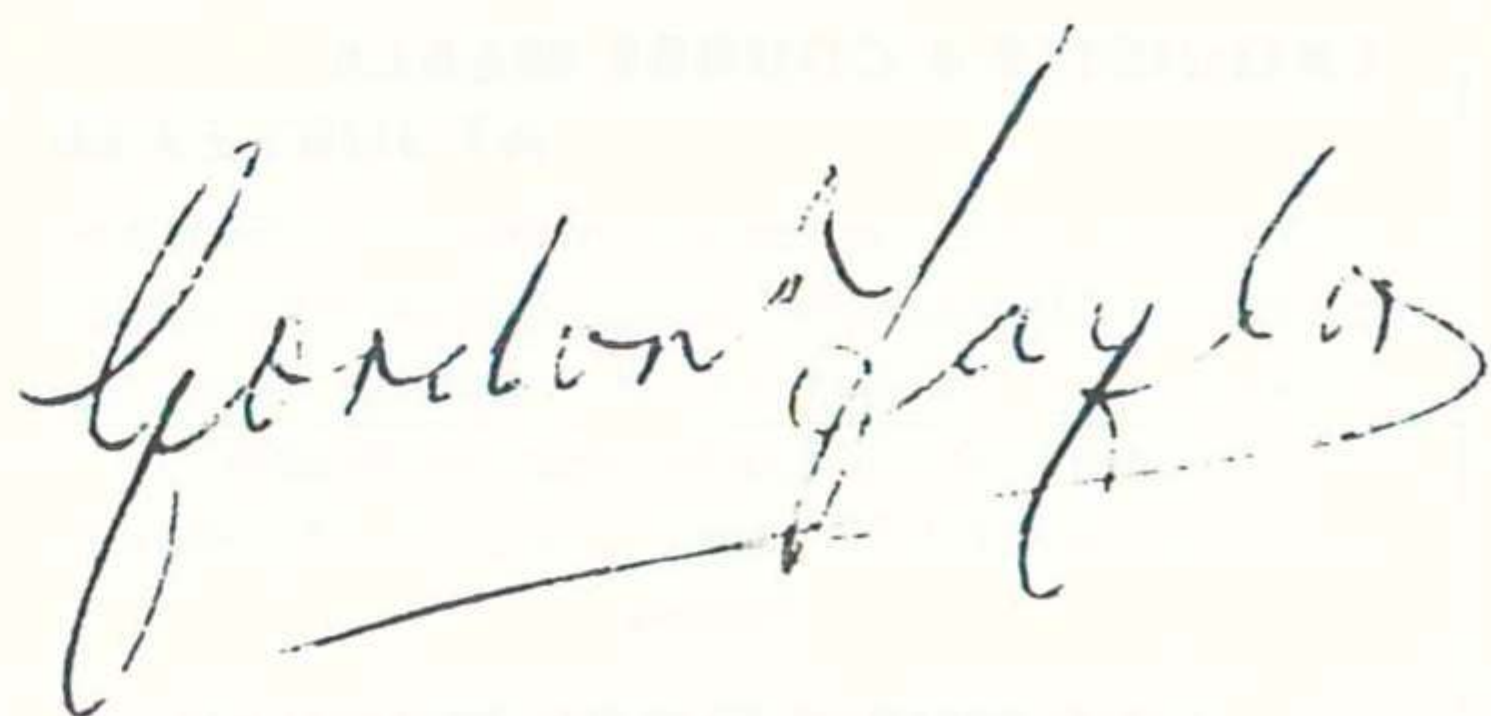
"One Hundred Percenter"

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to join in with the many other contributors to wish Peter every success in his Testimonial Year.

There can be no finer example of a professional footballer deserving such recognition by the Supporters of a Club he has served most loyally for the last ten years. In these days of high transfer fees Peter's value to the Club after signing from Blackpool in 1971 has been inestimable. He represents the very backbone of our profession, always given 100 per cent effort for the Club both on the field where he has willingly filled many positions to help the Club and off the field where I know he is always one of the first to volunteer to attend functions on behalf of the Club.

Having played against Peter I always knew I'd been in a game after 90 minutes and often had the marks to show it! Seriously though, Peter is a very capable and conscientious player who played a major part in Bolton's successful climb from third to first division and I know he is determined to help Bolton regain their premier status having turned down opportunities to join other clubs.

In closing I would like to thank the Testimonial Committee for their efforts on Peter's behalf and to wish Peter and Bolton Wanderers a successful Season.



Gordon Taylor
(Professional Footballers' Association)



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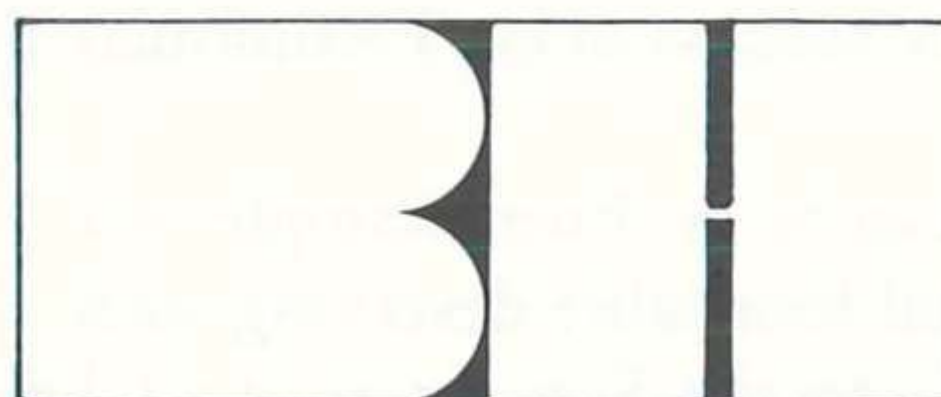
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'Nicko' in action against Nottingham Forest during Wanderers' First Division days

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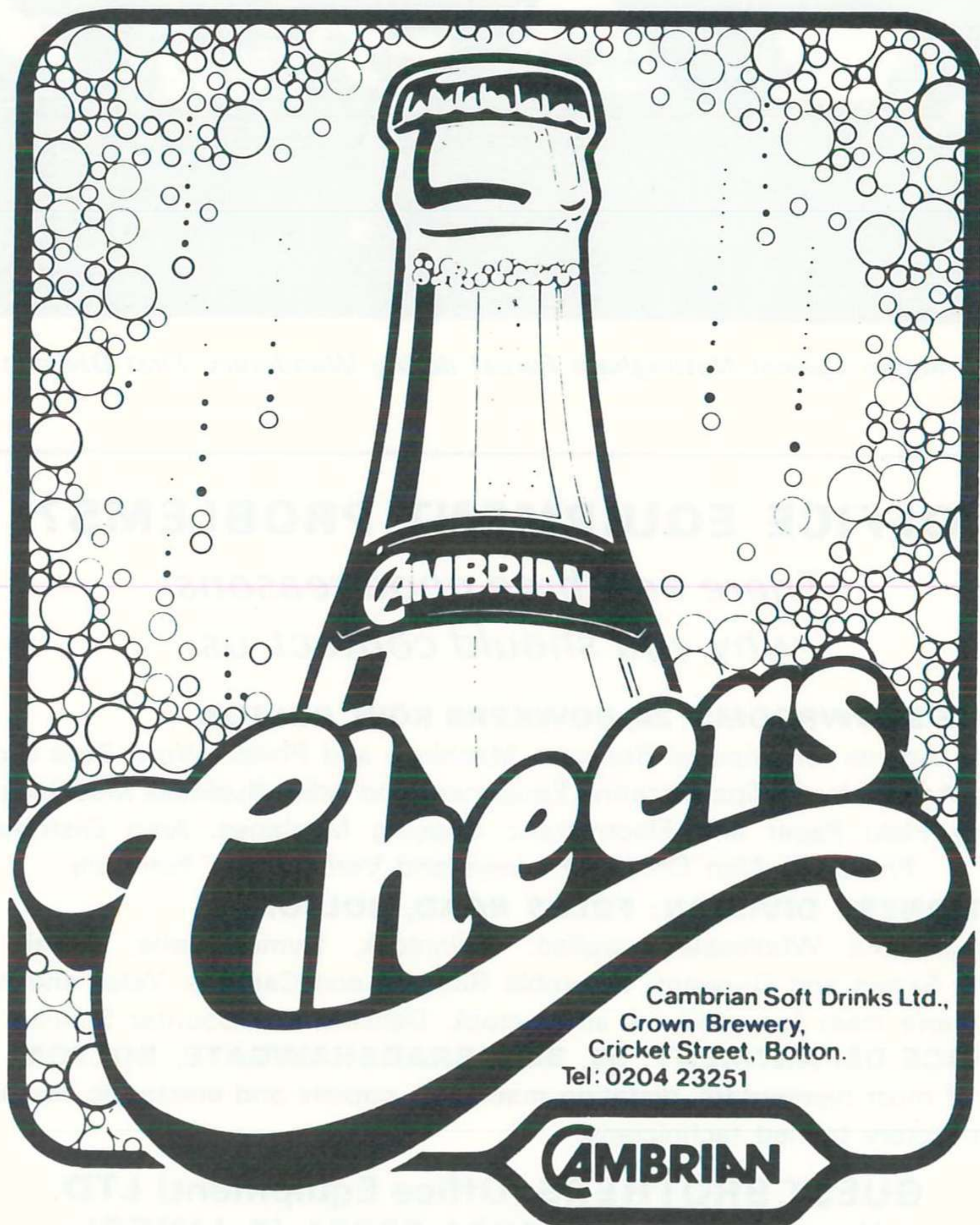
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A Great Ambassador

It is very nice to be asked by Peter to do a few lines in his Testimonial Brochure, and I take it as a great pleasure to say a few words.

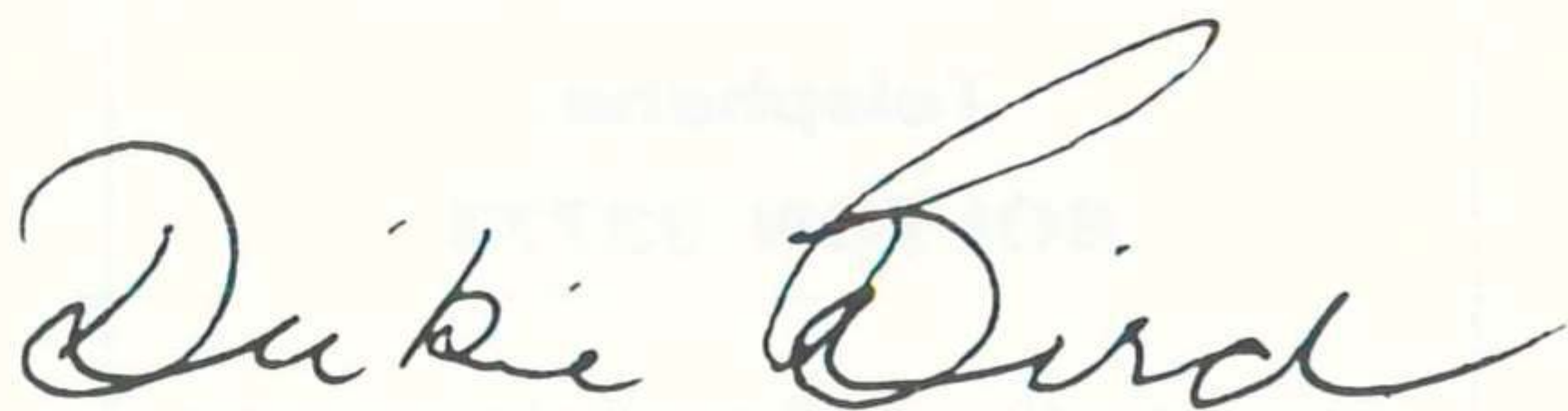
Peter has been a wonderful servant to Bolton Wanderers, when you look at his record of over 300 games for the club. He has shown application, dedication and he has always worked hard at his game. This is the true mark of any Sportsman, and on top of that he is a great club man, which is very important. Certainly when the history of Bolton Wanderers is told, Peter Nicholson will have pride of place.

Peter is a great Ambassador for Bolton and when he eventually decides to call it a day he must not be lost to football. Full use must be made of his ability.

Cricket is my game and my life. It is my first love, and football is my second love. I have had a lot of pleasure out of cricket and it has given me the chance to go all over the world. You know to play sport is a wonderful gift and it gives you the chance to meet some wonderful people.

Football is a happy game even though some people may disagree when the tension runs high. My advice to them is to go and watch Bolton Wanderers and "Peter".

Peter has had his moments, his contribution has been valuable and characteristic, and now is the time to collect the awards of his endeavours. I wish him well and hope people respond generously, at least you know you are giving to someone who has served his time and paid his dues in full.



Dickie Bird
(Test and World Cup Final Umpire)



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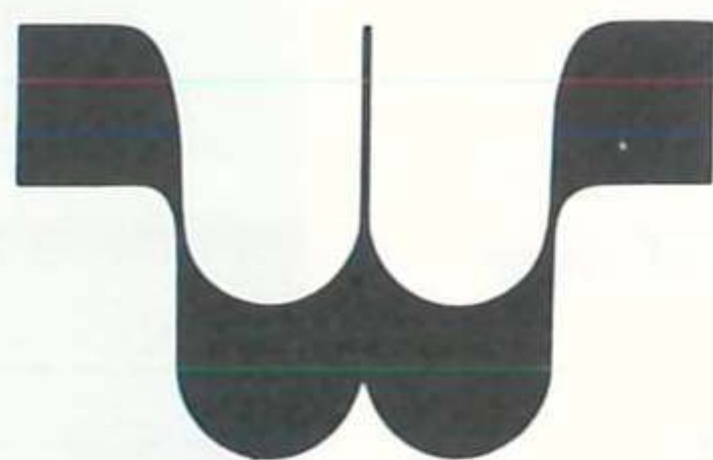
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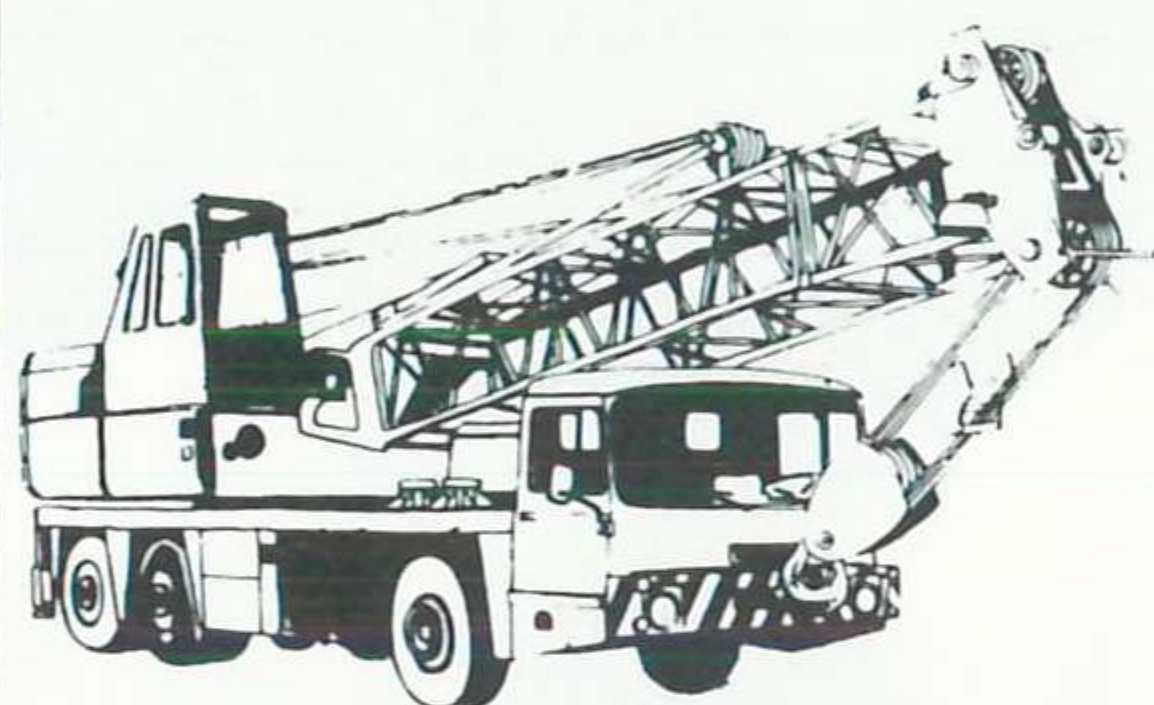
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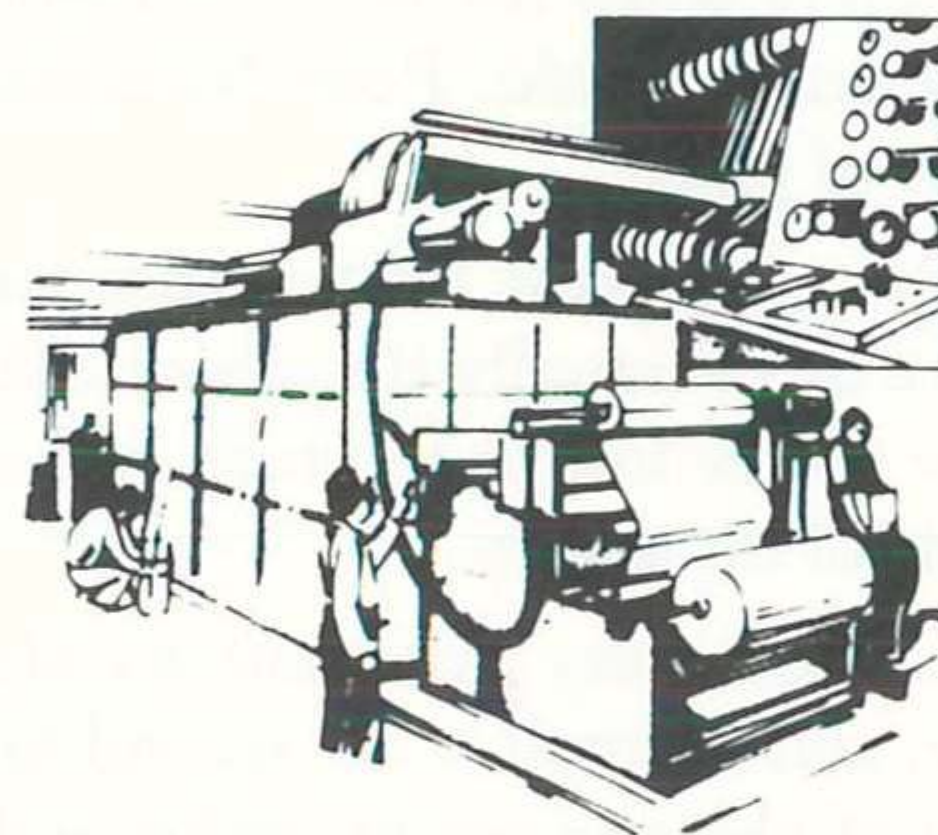


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*Congratulations to Peter Nicholson in his
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Wishing him Every Success in this
important Year*

“Mr. Utility”

“Nicho? I know Nicho all right!” was Liam Brady’s reaction on hearing that the Bolton man was being rewarded with a testimonial for his long and loyal service to Wanderers.

“He kicked me once”, joked the Republic of Ireland superstar, who hit the top with Arsenal and is now the toast of Juventus.

What the multi-talented Brady meant was that Nicho had done the perfect marking job on him—just as he has done on many illustrious names throughout his long career. However high a player’s reputation, they’ve all been the same to Nicho.

Peter Nicholson, in fact, has lined up against Liam Brady three times. But one game stands out as a personal triumph for the Bolton man and for me epitomises Nicho’s contribution to the game.

I remember the match well: Wanderers v Arsenal, Burnden Park, October 13th, 1979.

The result was a scoreless draw which prompted that now famous: “If you want entertainment go to the Palladium” remark from Ian Greaves, Wanderers manager at the time.

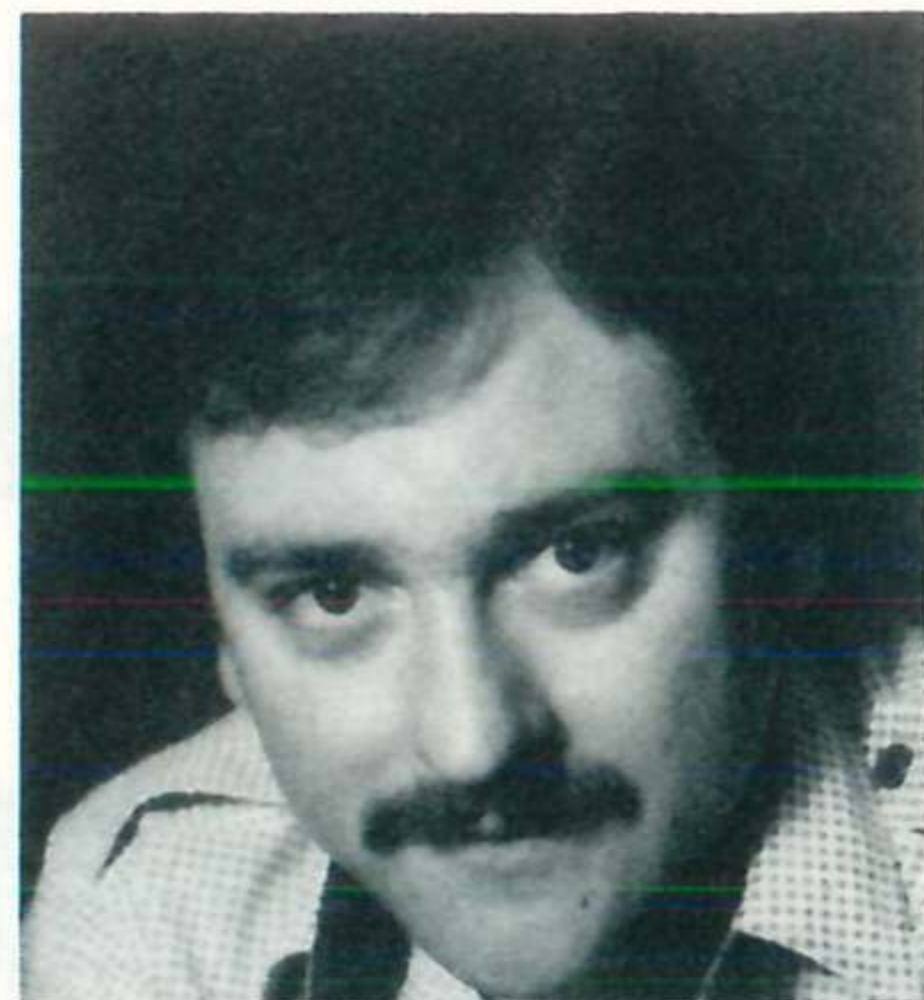
Not a classic this game, as Ian Greaves was quick to accept, but vital none the less for Wanderers, who at the time were fighting tooth and nail to haul themselves away from the foot of the First Division table.

The match earned a precious point, due in no small measure to Nicho who hardly gave Brady, or any of the other Arsenal midfield men who came along, an inch of room.

Four days earlier he’d done a similar spoiling job in Wanderers’ home game against mighty Liverpool earning another priceless point—which at one stage looked to be heading for two.

Against many people’s expectations, Peter Nicholson came very much into his own in the First Division. His 64 appearances out of a possible 84 during Wanderers’ two seasons in the top flight were evidence of that.

Whether in midfield or in his more accustomed position at full-back he always gave the same consistent performance we have come



to expect of him over the years. Yet, tested at the very highest level of club football, he was never out of his depth.

Peter Nicholson can never be said to have reached the same level of fame and fortune as the Bradys of the soccer world, but on a one-to-one basis on the field, his hard and honest style has often been a match, and in many cases more than a match, for the top stars.

Brady’s remark in fact is typical of the views held by many of those stars when reminded of Peter Nicholson.

Just because he has never courted the headline-hitting publicity of some of his fellow professionals doesn’t mean he has never earned their respect.

No blazing rows with managers or team mates; no scandal; and no hastily-written transfer requests the minute things have gone against him.

Once out of the team, Peter Nicholson’s first job has been to work tooth and nail to win back his place, which invariably he has done.

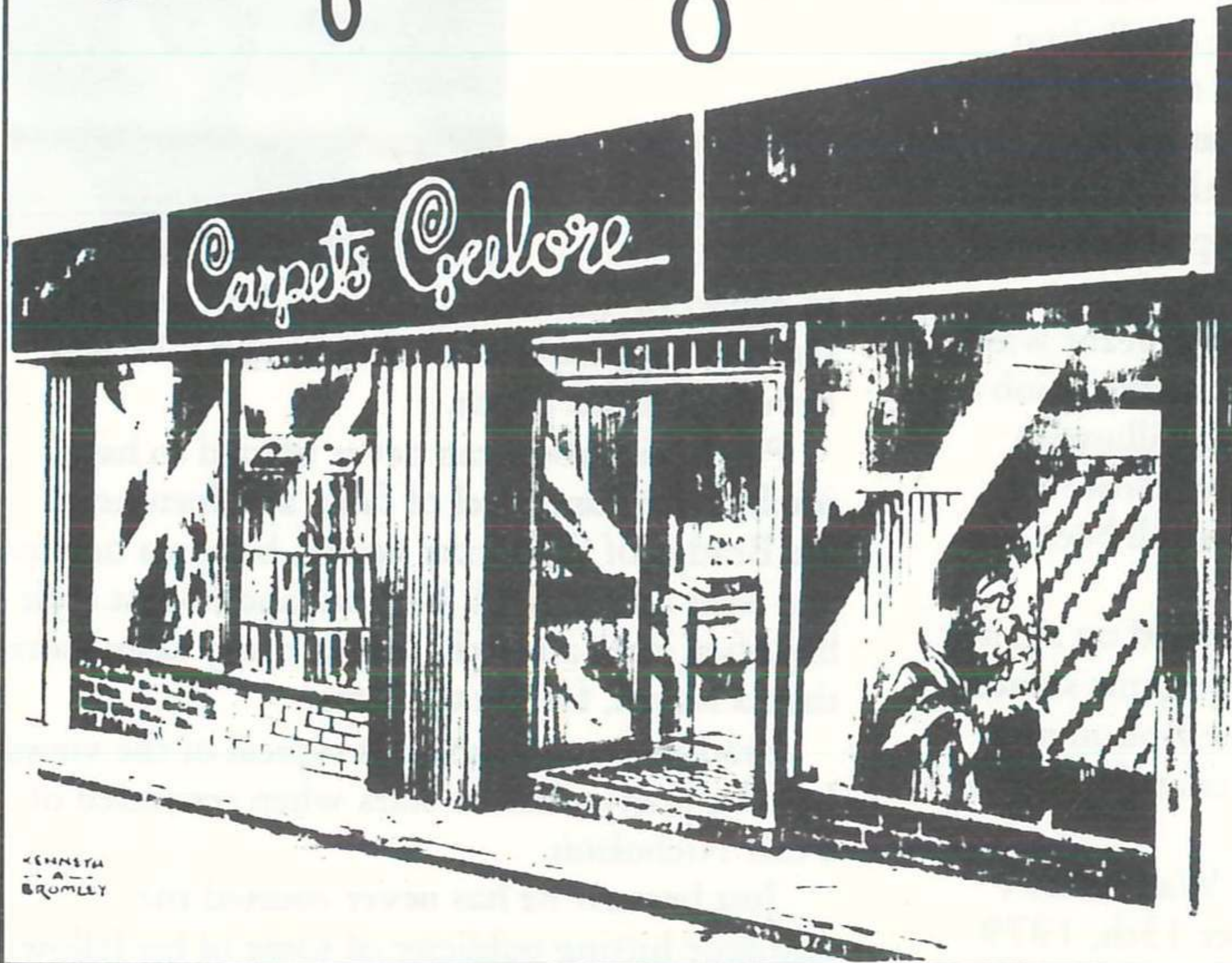
Wearing every shirt bar the ‘keepers jersey earned him the nickname “Mr. Utility”; level-par performances season in and season out got him the title “Mr. Consistency”; and when he commanded a regular place in the team at the start of his eleventh season he became “Mr. Evergreen”.

Whatever label you wish to stick on Peter Nicholson you can’t ignore his honest, dedicated, whole-hearted approach which has earned the healthy regard of the fans, his managers and his fellow players.

Gordon Sharrock

Gordon Sharrock
Bolton Evening News

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He's Earned Every Penny

Former Bolton Wanderers manager and long-time England full-back Jimmy Armfield paid an enormous tribute to Peter Nicholson ten years ago.

He travelled back to his old club, Blackpool and bought him.

For me, that was one of the biggest compliments in the game. Those who turn the clock back rather than go forward must be very, very sure of their man. It means that Peter had left a lasting impression when they'd been together at Bloomfield Road.

If Jimmy had seen weaknesses in Peter's game or flaws in his professionalism then he wouldn't have moved in that direction. And they'd been colleagues together, remember.

Burnden Park fans can have no complaints about the signing. Peter has been an extremely good servant. He has maintained a high level of consistency despite the constant ups and downs of the club..

That's why he deserves a healthy testimonial. He has been loyal during a period when players move about like Keystone Cops. I hope he is rewarded handsomely.

Only once did we meet on the football field, that was during a League Cup game after I had been transferred to Manchester City. I can still recall the resolution in his play, the clean approach he took into every game.

He's no mean performer with a cricket bat, either. I know that from charity games we have played in. Oddly enough, he plays golf with my brother, Arthur, too. Peter is the sort of lad who would have given 100 per cent to sport if it hadn't been his livelihood.

Dads who take their sons along to watch Peter could always point to him as one of the game's better types. He has, after all, set such a good example.



I always remember him telling an F.A. disciplinary hearing that a referee had booked a team-mate instead of him. That happened when Bolton played Burnley and Henry Mowbray was mistaken for him.

Peter hasn't enjoyed the real glamour in the game between Carlisle United, Blackpool and Bolton but I'm sure that his managers would say he's earned every penny of his wages.

They are the best judges on Peter Nicholson. Those who have seen him fight for Bolton on cold Wednesday nights and Saturdays away from home.

He has never let anybody down, has he? Peter has been a credit to his profession and I hope he enjoys the tributes which the fans will pay him.

Francis Lee

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Honesty and Commitment

It seems curious now, but when Peter Nicholson made his League debut for Bolton Wanderers in a Third Division match at Oldham Athletic, few people realised that over the next ten years he would make such an immeasurable contribution to the team—or, perhaps more more significantly, to Bolton Wanderers as a football club.

The Oldham game, watched by 14,372 people, ended with the Wanderers earning a 2–2 draw through two John Byrom goals. Peter Nicholson wore the Number 4 shirt that day and therein began the story of Peter's career at Bolton. For Peter has never really made any particular shirt his as of right over a season, but all Bolton supporters recognise that Peter's strength has been to pull on any shirt and still perform to the best of his ability. And his best has never been anything less than a marvellous mixture of honesty and commitment. Over the last ten years that mixture has been put to the test in virtually every position on the field—bar goalkeeper! Bolton's Mr. Utility has certainly justified both that title and the confidence and respect from successive managers, and supporters that goes with it!

Off the field he carries that same dedication into making himself the model professional and club man. Never an outcry if left out of the side, only endeavour in his attempt to win back his place. Always the enthusiasm to represent the club, and his fellow professionals, at any outside activity involving supporters and townsfolk alike. And both these features are reflected in his popularity amongst his fellow players and supporters.

Together these attributes make Peter the type of player who deserves a testimonial for two reasons. Firstly, because of the way he has always conducted himself as a player on the field, and secondly, because of the way he has always conducted himself as a professional off the field. I hope and believe that both the



supporters of Bolton Wanderers and the public of Bolton will support his testimonial year with the same commitment and enthusiasm that he has given them over the decade. He deserves nothing less.

Personally, I have seen Peter perform well and enthusiastically for Bolton Wanderers in three divisions of the Football League—displaying enthusiasm which I believe inspires all around him to give of their best. Without him Bolton Wanderers would have been a different sort of club, and I believe would have been the worse for the loss. It is for these reasons, and because he is such a nice guy personally, that I am delighted to have the opportunity to thank Peter and wish him luck over the next twelve months—his Testimonial Year—in this, his brochure.

I am sure that Peter will continue to display his enthusiasm and commitment for a few years yet!

Thank-you, Peter, and Good Luck.

Mr. George Warburton (Chairman,
Bolton Wanderers F.C.)

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A View from the Bar!

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"How much?" I countered, greedily.

"About four or five hundred words, came the reply . . .

Apart from being a first class defender and midfield player, and a truly loyal servant of the team I have supported for the last twenty years, Peter Nicholson has provided me with my fondest memory ever in football.

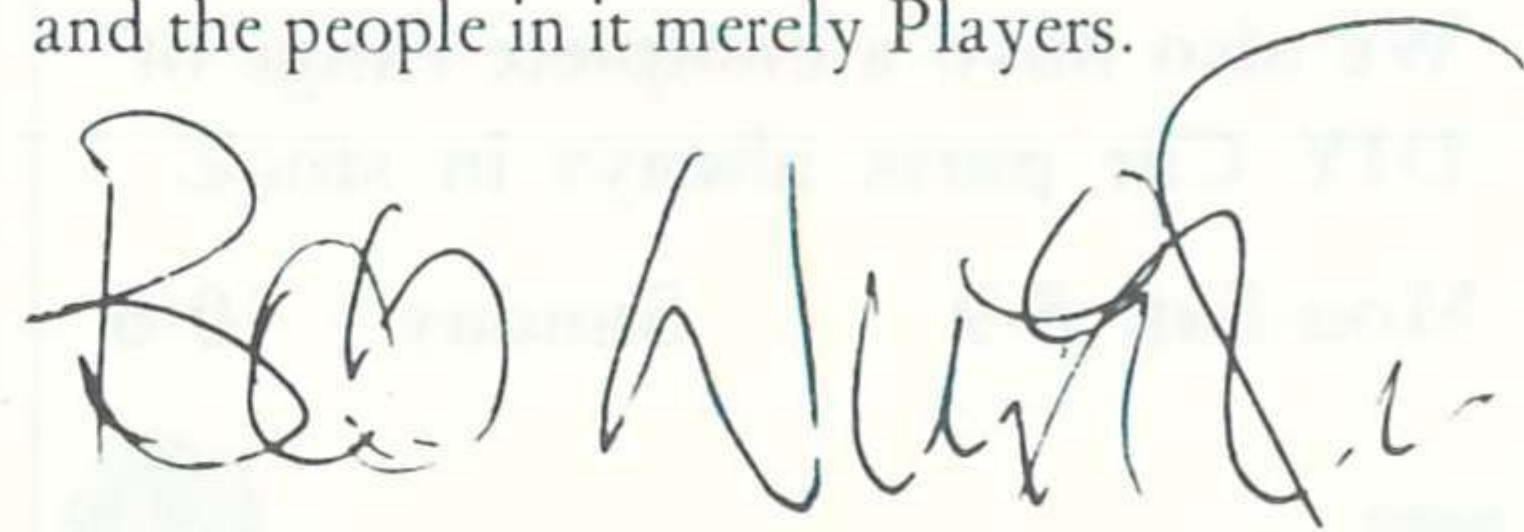
During the match against Southampton, Peter sustained a nose bleed. Ever courageous, he refused all treatment and went to the side line, to grab a small, brown sponge, which he proceeded to dab at his nose throughout the remainder of the match. I, having been at the bar when the incident occurred, and having partaken far too freely of the warm, Bullseye brown ale served up in paper cups — a gourmet's delight seemingly endemic to Bolton Wanderers — returned to the field and watched the rest of the match, convinced that Nicho had somehow smuggled onto the field a small pork pie, from which he kept nibbling as he ran up and down the ground.

It was, of course, this incident which beget the immortal lines:

"So there I was with the ball at my feet,
The opposing goal in my eye,
When who should come on to the
field but Peter,
Eating a cold meat pie."

It should also be mentioned, at this point, and to my eternal chagrin, that Peter excels at both golf and cricket, leaving me only to feel grateful that I have never had to face him on the football field.

So, well done, true and loyal servant. Always remember that the world is a cigarette packet, and the people in it merely Players.



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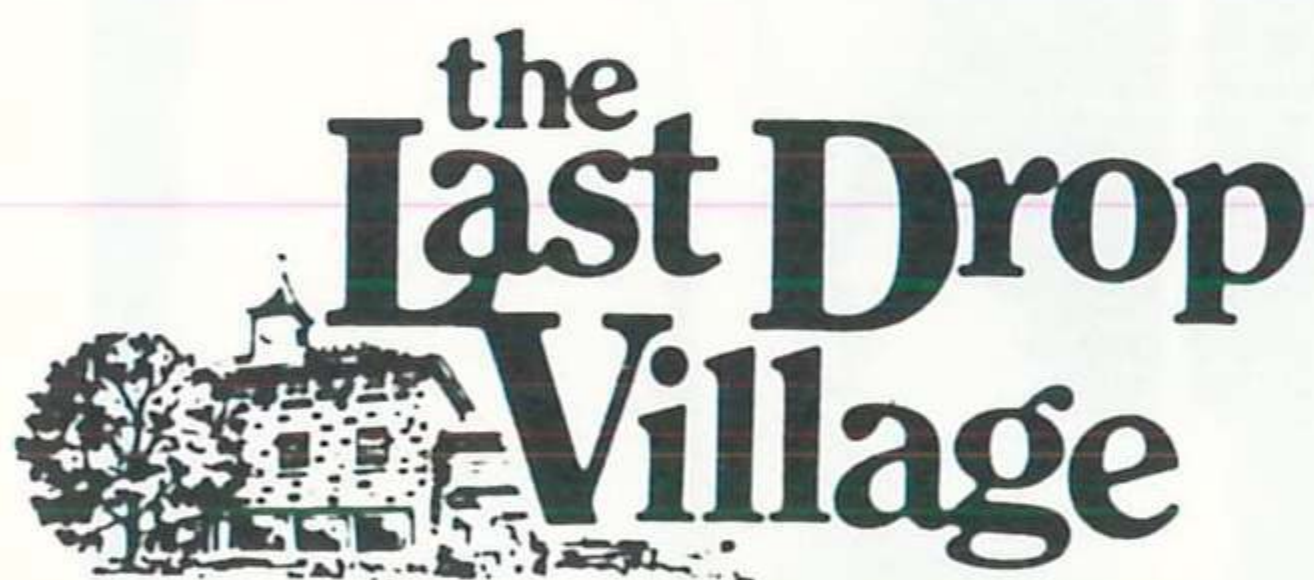
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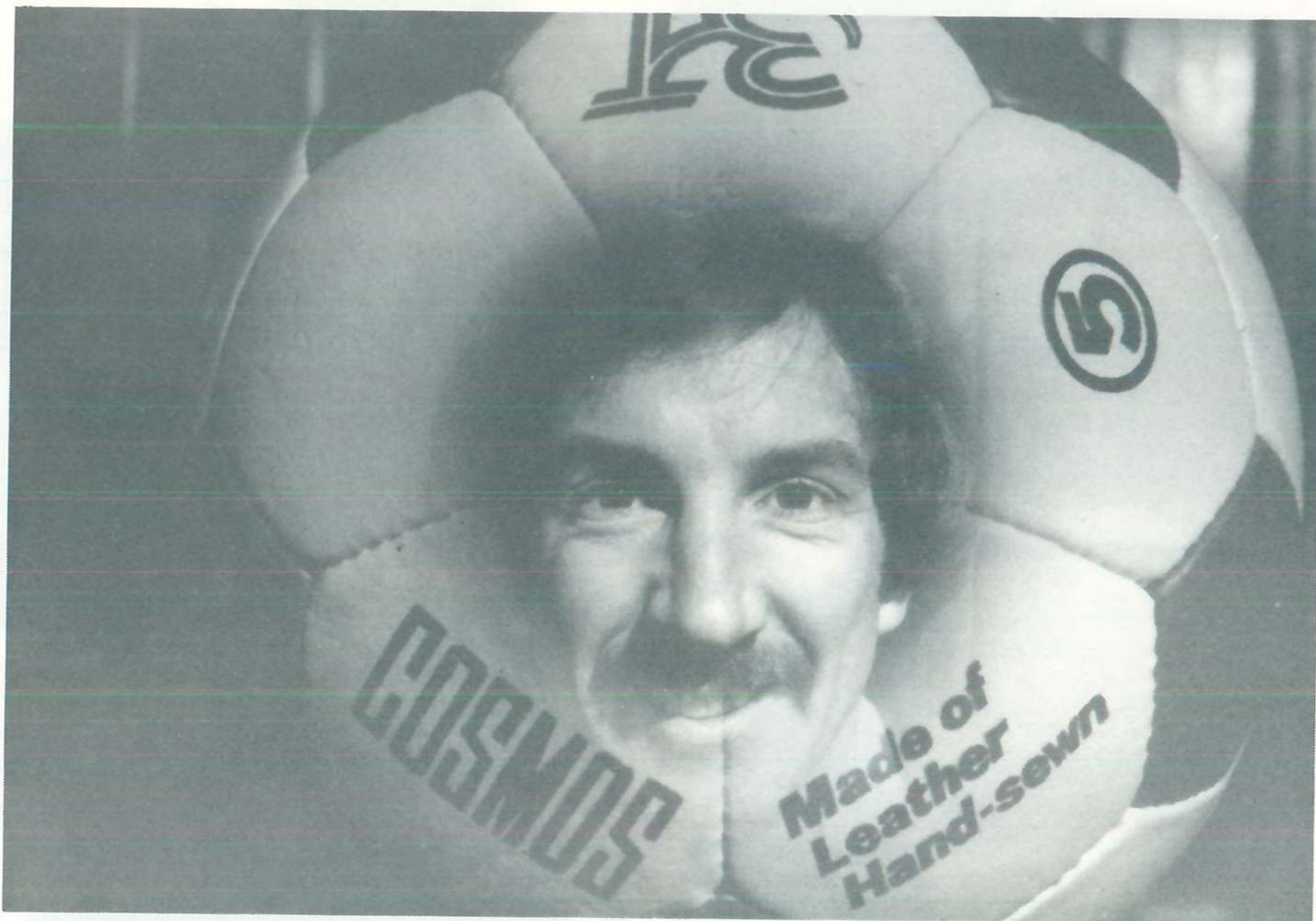
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I am greatly indebted to the many people who have given up their spare time to help in organising my Testimonial.

I began my career as an apprentice with Carlisle and when they scrapped their reserve side I was freed and joined Blackpool who are a great club with a tremendous history and I must thank both clubs for giving me a start in football.

Since joining the Wanderers in 1971 I've worked for some tremendous people, and I'd just like to thank everyone at Burnden who has helped me throughout my career.

To all the advertisers and sporting celebrities for their contributions many thanks, also grateful thanks to my Chairman John Farrar, Andrea Costello my secretary and all the members of my committee for their hard work.

And to you, the sporting public of Bolton, many thanks for your generous support.

Peter Nichol

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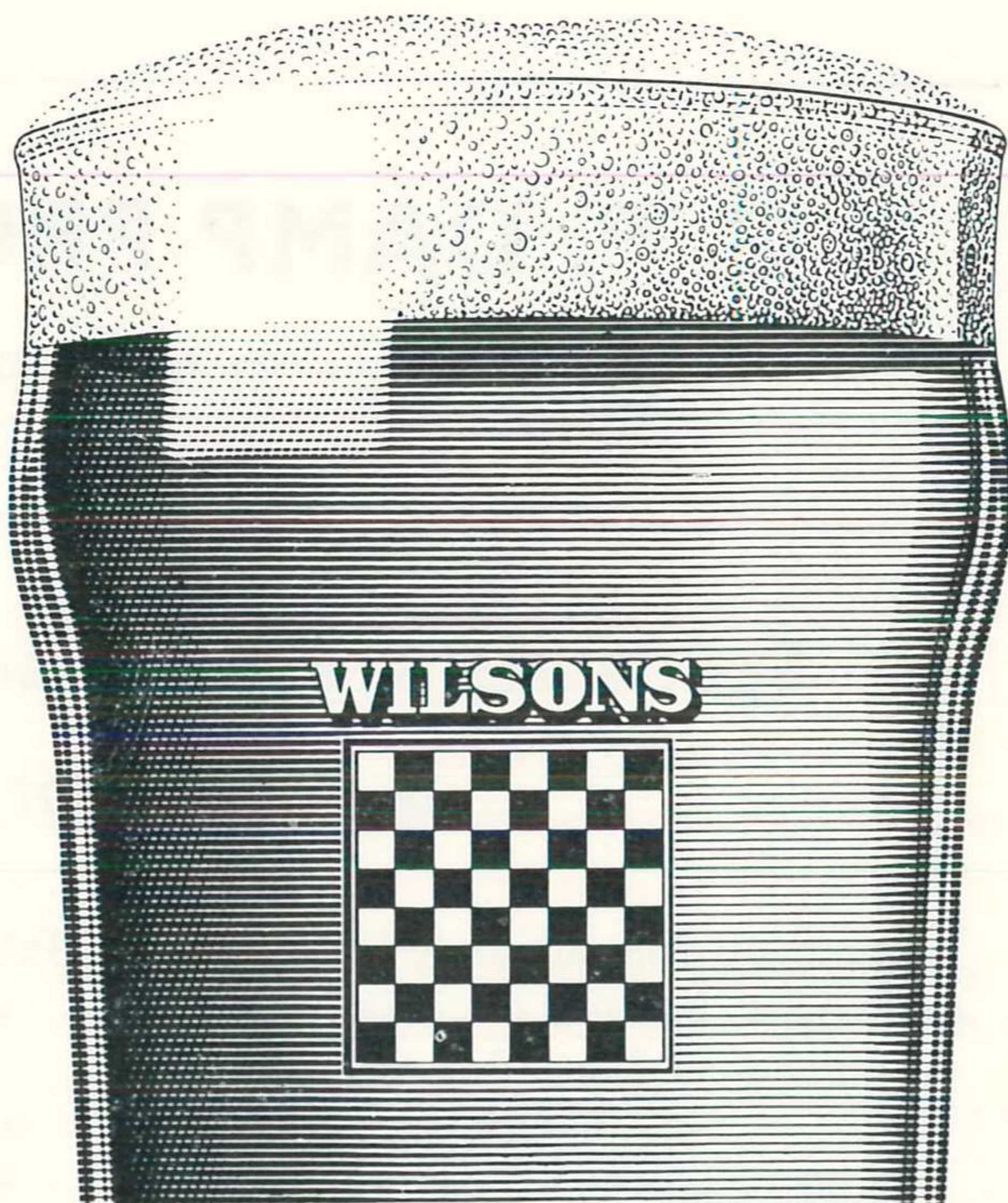
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NICKO'S THANKS

As I run out tonight with the lads, memories will come flooding back of eleven great years at the Wanderers, playing with and against so many great players and characters. I owe a tremendous debt to Jimmy Armfield for bringing me to Burnden Park in 1971. I have had my ups and downs — promotion twice, relegation, not always a regular member of the side; but in all, honestly, I couldn't have been happier during my career here.

As my Testimonial Year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Directors of Bolton Wanderers for allowing me the use of Burnden Park tonight. It would be impossible to thank all the people that have helped and supported me in the last 12 months, but I must mention tonight's Sponsor who has generously supported me throughout the year. My thanks also to the press who have been

tremendous, John McGovern and the lads, to 'Greavo', and all my old teammates for turning out tonight, and to George Best who is returning from Hong Kong to play tonight, the Match Officials Neil, Maurice and Sam.

Finally, it's been a long, hard 12 months, and would not have been possible without all the hard work put in by my Testimonial Committee. I shall always be grateful for your help throughout the year.

I'd like to close my "Burnden Scrapbook" by saying once again how much I've enjoyed my stay here. You, the fans, have supported me tremendously, not only this year, but over the years, and it's been a pleasure to be associated with a fabulous Club and fabulous people.



Nicko

PETER NICHOLSON '78 XI

From:

1. JIM McDONAGH
2. JOHN RITSON
3. TONY DUNNE
4. PETER NICHOLSON
5. PAUL JONES
6. MIKE WALSH
7. PETER REID
8. NEIL WHATMORE
9. FRANK WORTHINGTON
10. GARY JONES
11. GEORGE BEST
12. ROGER HUNT
13. STEVE TAYLOR
14. JOHN THOMAS

Manager: IAN GREAVES

BOLTON WANDERERS 1982-83

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2. STEVE WHITWORTH
3. RAY DEAKIN
4. MIKE DOYLE
5. GERRY McELHINNEY
6. JOHN McGOVERN
7. JEFF CHANDLER
8. TONY HENRY
9. IAN MOORES
10. SIMON RUDGE
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